

**REMARKS**

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Turning first to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of claim 46 as being indefinite, "said substrate" in line 4 is changed to --a substrate--.

It is believed this avoids the rejection and withdrawal is requested.

The prior art: US Pub. 2002/0068129 Moriyama et al (Moriyama); US Patent 6,049,167 Onitsuka et al (Onitsuka); US Patent 6,566,805 Tsai et al (Tsai); US Patent 6,097,147 Baldo et al (Baldo); US Patent 6,612,888 Pai et al (Pai); U.S. Patent 6,617,052 Morii (Morii).

**Claim Amendments**

The last part of claim 1 is amended to read as follows:

--compounds, [and] wherein said light-emitting layer[,] and said back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less and said sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.--

The language at the end of claim 21 and at the end of claim 22 is amended to read as follows:

--[disposing] forming said light-emitting layer[,] and said back side electrode in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less and disposing said sealing parts in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less; and

said one or more organic layer is/are isolated from external air after [disposing] forming said light-emitting layer until said sealing parts are disposed. --

The language at the end of claim 23 is amended to read as follows:

--[disposing] forming said light-emitting layer[,] and said back side electrode in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less and disposing said sealing parts in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 30 ppm or less; and

said one or more organic layer is/are isolated from external air after [disposing] forming said light-emitting layer until said sealing parts are disposed, and wherein at least one of said organic layers is formed by a wet film-forming method.--

The end of claim 24 is amended to read as follows:

--wherein said light-emitting layer[,] and said back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less and said sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less. --

The language in claim 46 at lines 10-14 is amended to read as follows:

--for light emission, [and] wherein said light-emitting layer[,] and said back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less and said sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less,--

**Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 21-23 over Moriyama, etc.**

Claims 1-11 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Moriyama in view of Onitsuka further in view of Tsai.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have earlier set forth the amended portion of claim 1.

With respect to claim 1, major distinguishing features of the method for producing a light-emitting device of claim 1 are:

(1) the one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound;

(2) the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where **both** of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less; and

(3) the sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.

In contrast to claim 1, Moriyama is, as the Examiner appreciates, silent regarding both a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration within a sealed atmosphere being 100 ppm or less. Moriyama also fails to teach the specific steps on the sealing process, as the Examiner states at page 3 of the Action.

With respect to Onitsuka, Onitsuka disclose a method of sealing a light emitting device comprising the steps of disposing a substrate containing a transparent electrode, a light emitting layer and a back side electrode, and sealing parts, in an inert gas atmosphere where the moisture

concentration is 100 ppm or less in the space of the shield member. See Onitsuka at column 3, lines 1-5 and lines 13-18; claim 1; and Figs. 1 and 2. Onitsuka does not, however, in any manner teach or suggest distinguishing features (2) and (3) above mentioned.

Turning finally to Tsai, Tsai teaches the necessity to control the content of water and oxygen in a process for producing an organic-electroluminescent device to no more than 1 ppm to avoid poor performance and low stability of the plastic organic electro-luminescent device of Tsai, the poor performance and low stability being caused by water and oxygen contained in the plastic material. See Tsai at column 2, lines 3-9 and column 3, line 11. In a manner similar to Onitsuka, Tsai fails to teach distinguishing features (2) and (3) above discussed.

Accordingly, considering Moriyama, Onitsuka and Tsai, the combination of references does not teach or suggest distinguishing features (2) and (3).

Applicants thus submit that claim 1 as amended distinguishes the Moriyama/Onitsuka/Tsai rejection and request withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 1.

With respect to claims 2-11, Applicants rely upon their arguments regarding claim 1.

Rather than repeat the subject matter of claims 21, 22 and 23 at this point, the Examiner is requested to refer to those claims as amended and the earlier set for amended portions of those claims.

With respect to amended claim 21 (and claim 22), major distinguishing features of the method for producing a light-emitting device of claim 21 and claim 22 are:

(a) the one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound;

(b) forming the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 (or 30) ppm or less and disposing the sealing parts in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 (or 30) ppm or less; and

(c) the one or more organic layer is/are isolated from external air after forming the light-emitting layer until the sealing parts are disposed.

With respect to claim 23, major distinguishing features of the method for producing a light-emitting device of claim 23:

(a) the one or more organic layers comprise(s) a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound;

(b) forming the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less and disposing the sealing parts in an inert gas atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 30 ppm or less; and

(c) the one or more organic layer is/are isolated from external air after forming the light-emitting layer until the sealing parts are disposed, wherein at least one of the organic layer is formed by a wet film-forming method.

As set forth in the above discussion concerning amended claim 1, major distinguishing features of the method for producing a light-emitting device in amended claims 21-23 are essentially:

- (1) the one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound,
- (2) the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 (or 30) ppm or less, and
- (3) the sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 (or 30) ppm or less.

For the same essential reasons as advanced with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21, 22 and 23 as now amended are not rendered obvious by Moriyama/Onitsuka/Tsai, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested.

**Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 21-23 over Baldo, etc.**

The Examiner next rejects claims 1-11 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Baldo in view of Onitsuka further in view of Tsai.

Onitsuka and Tsai have earlier been discussed.

Baldo discloses a method for producing a light-emitting device comprising the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more organic layers and a back side electrode on a substrate to provide a light-emitting device, where one or more organic layer contain a phosphorescent compound (a thin emission layer EL 513 layer containing bathocuproine (2,9-

dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline) doped with about 8% PtOEP (2,3,7,8,12,13,17,18-octaethyl-21H,23H-porphyrine platinum (II)). See Baldo at column 5, lines 41-45; column 6, lines 5-18 (Example); and Fig. 3. However, Baldo fails to teach or suggest the distinguishing features (2) and (3) discussed above concerning amended claim 1.

Accordingly, from the combination of Baldo, Onitsuka and Tsai, there is no teaching or suggestion of distinguishing features (2) and (3) earlier discussed and, accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 (amended) is not obvious over Baldo/Onitsuka/Tsai.

With respect to claims 2-11 and 21-23, except for the fact that Baldo replaces Moriyama, Applicants essentially rely on their earlier arguments.

**Rejection of Claims 24-45 over Moriyama, etc.**

The Examiner next rejects claims 24-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Moriyama in view of Pai.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Rather than repeat claim 24 (amended) here, the Examiner is requested to refer to claim 24 and the earlier presented amended excerpt.

Major distinguishing features of the method for producing a light-emitting device of claim 24 are:

(1') the one or more organic layers comprise(s) a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound which utilizes triplet excitons for light emission;

(2), the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less; and

(3) the sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.

Moriyama has earlier been discussed, and the defects in Moriyama have been pointed out. Applicants incorporate their earlier discussion regarding Moriyama at this point of the present AMENDMENT, and now turn to Pai.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Pai discloses in First Embodiment a packaging method of an electro-luminescent device 502 while controlling the moisture and oxygen in an environment 530 comprising the steps of:

providing a glass substrate 500 with electro-luminescent device 502 and a glass covering plate 504;

cutting the glass substrate 500 into individual packages 516 including an electro-luminescent device 502 enclosed by a part of the glass substrate 500; and

a part of the glass plate 504 and the frame glue 508, which serves to control the joint gap between the glass substrate 500 and the glass plate 504, except a side thereof exposed to the environment 530 via the opening 512, where each of the packages 516 is disposed in a vacuum cavity 520 with the opening facing the packaging material in a glue tub 522 in the vacuum cavity 520, the pressure of the vacuum is raised to have the packaging material 524 (e.g., UV glue) fill the cavity 518 containing the electro-luminescent device 502 in the package 516, whereafter the



whereafter the packaging material 524 is cured (e.g., UV light curing) (see Abstract; column 4, line 23 to column 5, line 40; and Figs. 4 and 5A to 5H of Pai).

Pai also discloses in Second Embodiment a packaging method of a large area electro-luminescent device 802 in the same manner as in the First Embodiment except that the package 816 is immersed or dipped into the glue tub 822, whereby the packaging material 824 is injected into a space or cavity 818 between the glass substrate 800 and the glass plate 804 enclosed by the frame glue 808 (see Pai at column 5, line 51 to column 6, line 38, particularly, column 6, lines 22-35; and Figs. 7 and 8A to 8F, particularly, Figs. 8D and 8E).

However, Pai does not teach or suggest the formation of the Pai electro-luminescent device 502 (or 802) to be used in the packaging method of an electro-luminescent device 502 (or 802), rather, Pai just explains general steps to produce device 502 (or 802) as such to be used in the Pai packaging method (see Pai at column 4, lines 9-19; and Fig. 6). In addition, Pai uses glue and injects the same into each corresponding electro-luminescent device 502 (or 802) and hardens the same by UV light curing or thermal curing, features which are completely different from the claimed invention.

As a consequence, the electro-luminescent device 502 (or 802) of Pai is formed prior to introduction into environment 530 (or 830) with a controlled moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration, which is entirely different from the claimed invention where the light-emitting layer is **formed** in an inert gas atmosphere where both of moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art referring to Pai, which is silent regarding the formation of electro-luminescent device 502 (or 802) *per se* in an inert atmosphere where both moisture concentration and oxygen concentration are controlled to 100 ppm or less, would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art, even when combined with Moriyama, to the subject matter of the claims at issue.

Accordingly, withdrawal is requested.

Offering brief remarks on Moriyama, since Moriyama is silent regarding one or more organic layers comprising a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound which utilizes triplet excitons for light emission, it is clear that Moriyama does not teach or suggest distinguished features (1') to (3) of the claimed invention as earlier discussed concerning amended claim 1.

With respect to claims 25-45, Applicants rely upon their arguments regarding claim 24 as amended.

**Rejection of Claim 46 based on Morii, etc.**

Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Morii in view of Pai further in view of Moriyama.

With respect to Morii, Applicants file a certified English translation of their priority document. Morii has a 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of March 20, 2001, and a 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) date of November 22, 2001. The present application's priority document was filed December 5, 2000, earlier than any Morii date. Since the rejection is based upon Morii as a primary reference, Applicants avoid Morii with their certified translation. Basis for the claim is later discussed.

Further, as is clear from the discussion regarding Pai and Moriyama at earlier points of this AMENDMENT, neither Pai or Moriyama, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the distinguishing features “the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode are formed in an inert gas atmosphere where **both** of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less, and the sealing parts are disposed in an inert gas atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.”

Withdrawal is requested.

#### **Basis in the Certified Translation**

Although titles might differ, Paragraph [0006] to Paragraph [0071] in the certified translation appear to be essentially identical (almost word for word) to the specification of the present application with the following exceptions.

The disclosure in the present specification at page 5, lines 13-23 does not appear to occur in the certified translation. The embodiment in the present specification at page 6, bridging lines 25/26 does not appear to occur in the certified translation.

The last two words at page 7 and the first word at page 8 do not appear to occur in the certified translation. At page 19, line 24 “(MBE method)” does not appear to occur in the certified translation. Page 21, lines 14-16 in the present specification differs a little bit from the corresponding language in the certified translation. Comparative Example 4 in the present application seems to differ from Comparative Example 4 in the certified translation. In the certified translation ABSTRACT, **Problems to be Solved**: seems to parallel the material

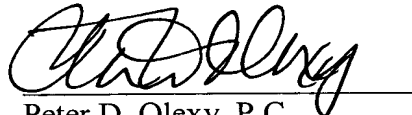
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. Application No.: 10/000,323

bridging pages 3/4 of the present application. **Solution:** appears to parallel the Abstract of the present application.

There appears to be no question by the claims of the present application are supported in the priority document.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter D. Olexy", written over a horizontal line.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 7, 2005

I, Ikuzo Tanaka, Declare:

1. I am a citizen of Japan residing at 24-5, Mejirodai 4-chome, Hachiouji-shi, Tokyo, Japan.
2. To the best of my ability, I translated:

Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-370151

from Japanese into English and the attached document is a true and accurate English translation thereof.

3. I further declare that all statements made herein are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Date: December 5, 2005

Ikuzo Tanaka  
Ikuzo Tanaka

## JAPANESE PATENT APPLICATION NO. 2000-370151

	<b>Document</b>	Application for Patent
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5	<b>Filing Date</b>	December 5, 2000
	<b>To:</b>	Commissioner of The Patent Office
	<b>IPC</b>	H05B 33/14
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		Paid in advance
		009324
25		21,000
	<b>Attached Papers</b>	
		Specification
		one

ABSTRACT

one

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General Power of Attorney

9907443

**Necessity for Proof**

Yes

## SPECIFICATION

### Title of the Invention

5 LIGHT-EMITTING DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME

#### Claims:

1. A light-emitting device obtained by a method comprising the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more organic layers and a back side  
10 electrode on a substrate to provide a light-emitting structure, and disposing sealing parts on said light-emitting structure to isolate said one or more organic layers from external air, wherein said one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound, and said light-emitting layer, said back side electrode and said sealing parts are disposed in an  
15 atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.
2. A method for producing a light-emitting device comprising the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more organic layers and a back side  
20 electrode on a substrate to provide a light-emitting structure, and disposing sealing parts on said light-emitting structure to isolate said one or more organic layers from external air, wherein said one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound, and said light-emitting layer, said back side electrode and said sealing parts are disposed in an  
25 atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.
3. The light-emitting device according to claim 2, wherein said one or more organic layers is isolated from external air after disposing said light-emitting layer until said sealing parts are disposed.



4. The light-emitting device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein at least one of said organic layers is formed by a wet film-forming method.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0001]

### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a light-emitting device excellent in  
5 luminance, light-emitting efficiency and durability, and a method for producing  
the light-emitting device.

[0002]

### Prior Art

Organic light-emitting devices comprising an organic compound have  
10 been considered to be useful for an economical, solid emission type light-  
emitting device having a large emission area such as a full color display device  
and a writing light source array, thereby having been actively studied in recent  
years. The organic light-emitting device generally comprises a couple of  
electrodes and one or more organic layers containing a light-emitting layer  
15 disposed between the electrodes. When to the organic light-emitting device is  
applied a voltage, electrons are injected from a negative electrode and holes are  
injected from a positive electrode to the organic layers. The electrons and the  
holes are recombined in the light-emitting layer and energy is converted into  
light while an energy level is turned from a conduction band to a valence band,  
20 whereby the organic light-emitting device emits light.

[0003]

The conventional organic light-emitting devices require high applying  
voltage for light emission and are poor in luminance and light-emitting  
efficiency. Some proposals have been provided to overcome the problem in  
25 recent years, for example, an organic light-emitting device comprising organic  
thin layers of a vapor-deposited organic compound has been disclosed in  
Applied Physics Letters, 51, 913 (1987). This organic light-emitting device  
has a bilayer lamination structure where an electron-transporting layer and a

hole-transporting layer are laminated between the electrodes, thereby exhibiting more excellent light-emitting properties than that of devices having a single-layer structure. This organic light-emitting device uses a low molecular weight amine compound as a hole-transporting material and 8-quinolinol aluminum complex (Alq) as an electron-transporting, light-emitting material to emit a green light. After this disclosure, various organic light-emitting devices comprising the vapor-deposited organic thin layers have been developed as disclosed in Macromolecularly Symposium, 125, 1 (1997) and references therein, etc. However, such organic light-emitting devices are inferior in the light-emitting efficiency to inorganic LED devices and fluorescent tubes, thereby being far from practicable.

[0004]

Most of the conventional organic light-emitting devices are such that utilizes singlet excitons generated in the organic light-emitting material to provide fluorescence. According to simple mechanism in quantum chemistry, ratio of the singlet excitons providing fluorescence to triplet excitons providing phosphorescence is 1/3 in an excitation state. Therefore, the organic light-emitting device providing fluorescence can practically utilize only 25 % of the excitons, thereby inevitably being poor in the light-emitting efficiency.

Under such circumstances, phosphorescent light-emitting devices using a phenylpyridine-iridium complex have been disclosed in Appl. Phys. Lett., Vol. 75, Page 4 (1999), Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., Vol. 38, Page L1502 (1999), etc. in recent years. The light-emitting efficiency of the phosphorescent light-emitting device is two to three times higher than those of the conventional fluorescent light-emitting devices. However, the light-emitting efficiency of the phosphorescent light-emitting device is lower than theoretical light-emitting efficiency, and thus, the light-emitting efficiency has been desired to be further improved to put the phosphorescent light-emitting device into practical use.

Further, the phosphorescent light-emitting device has been required to be further improved with respect to the durability because it is inferior therein to the conventional fluorescent light-emitting devices.

[0005]

5           Although the organic layer of the organic light-emitting device may be formed by a vapor deposition method, a sputtering method, a CVD method, a PVD method, an applying method using a solvent, etc., the organic layer is desirably formed by a wet film-forming method (a coating method) such as the applying method from the viewpoints of simplification of production processes,  
10   reduction of production costs, improvement of workability, application to a flexible device having a large emitting area such as a back light and an illuminated light source, etc. In the known phosphorescent light-emitting devices mentioned above, the organic layer composed of the low molecular weight compound is formed by a dry film-forming method such as a vapor  
15   deposition method. Thus, the devices are inevitably deteriorated by crystallization of the low molecular weight compound to require high production costs and to be poor in producibility.

Organic light-emitting devices comprising an organic layer of a high molecular weight compound formed by a wet film-forming method have been  
20   disclosed and poly(*p*-phenylenevinylene) that emits a green light (Nature, Vol. 347, Page 539, (1990)), poly(3-alkylthiophene) that emits an orange-red light (Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., Vol. 30, Page L1938 (1991)), polyalkylfluorene that emits a blue light (Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., Vol. 30, Page L1941 (1991)), etc. have been known as the high molecular weight compound. Further, Japanese Patent  
25   Laid-Open No. 2-223188 has disclosed a method where a low molecular weight compound is dispersed in a binder resin and formed into a layer by a wet applying method. However, the organic light-emitting device comprising the organic layer formed by the wet method is such that utilizes the singlet excitons,

thereby being still disadvantageous in a low light-emitting efficiency.

[0006]

### **Problems to be Solved by the Invention**

An object of the present invention is to provide a light-emitting device  
5 excellent in luminance, light-emitting efficiency and durability, which can be  
produced with low production costs and can be easily increased in emitting area  
to be useful for a full color display, a back light, a surface light source such as  
an illuminated light source, a light source array of a printer, etc. as well as to  
provide a method for producing the same.

10 [0007]

### **Means for Solving Problems**

As a result of intense research in view of the above objects, the inventor  
has found that a phosphorescent light-emitting device utilizing triplet excitons is  
liable to be affected and quenched by moisture and oxygen differently from a  
15 fluorescent light-emitting device utilizing singlet excitons, and therefore, a  
phosphorescent light-emitting device excellent in light-emitting properties and  
durability can be obtained by providing a light-emitting layer, a back side  
electrode and sealing parts in an atmosphere where both of a moisture  
concentration and an oxygen concentration are low level. The present  
20 invention has been accomplished by the finding.

[0008]

Thus, a light-emitting device of the present invention is obtained by a  
method comprising the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more  
organic layers and a back side electrode on a substrate to provide a light-  
25 emitting structure, and disposing sealing parts on the light-emitting structure to  
isolate the one or more organic layers from external air, wherein the one or more  
organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent  
compound, and the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing

parts are disposed in an atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less. The light-emitting device of the present invention is excellent in luminance, light-emitting efficiency and durability, and useful for a full color display, a back light, a surface light source  
5 such as an illuminated light source, a light source array of a printer, etc.

[0009]

A method of the present invention for producing a light-emitting device comprises the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more organic layers and a back side electrode on a substrate to provide a light-emitting  
10 structure, and disposing sealing parts on the light-emitting structure to isolate the one or more organic layers from external air, wherein the one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound, and the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing parts are disposed in an atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an  
15 oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.

[0010]

In the present invention, the one or more organic layers is preferably isolated from external air after disposing the light-emitting layer until the sealing parts are disposed. Further, to produce the light-emitting device with reduced  
20 production costs or to increase an emitting area of the device, at least one of the organic layers is preferably formed by a wet film-forming method.

[0011]

### **Operative Embodiments for Practicing the Invention**

A light-emitting device of the present invention can be obtained by a  
25 method of the present invention, which comprises the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more organic layers and a back side electrode on a substrate to provide a light-emitting structure, and disposing sealing parts on the light-emitting structure to isolate the one or more organic layers from external

air. The one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound. The one or more organic layers may comprise such a layer as a protective layer, etc. in addition to the light-emitting layer, if necessary. Incidentally, the term "light-emitting structure" used in this invention means an assembly comprising the substrate, the transparent electrode, the one or more organic layers and the back side electrode.

[0012]

In the present invention, processes of disposing the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing parts are carried out in an atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less, whereby amount of remaining water and oxygen in the resulting device is reduced. As a result, disappearance of triplet excitons generated in the light-emitting device is suppressed and the device exhibits excellent luminance, light-emitting efficiency and durability. It is also preferred that the organic layer other than the light-emitting layer such as a protective layer, etc. is disposed in the above-mentioned atmosphere. In particular, it is preferred that the one or more organic layers is not exposed to the air from the process of disposing the light-emitting layer to the process of disposing the sealing parts.

[0013]

The moisture concentration of the above atmosphere is 100 ppm or less, preferably 50 ppm or less, more preferably 30 ppm or less. The oxygen concentration of the above atmosphere is 100 ppm or less, preferably 50 ppm or less, more preferably 30 ppm or less.

[0014]

In the light-emitting device of the present invention, the light-emitting structure may have such a laminate on the substrate as: transparent electrode/light-emitting layer/back side electrode; transparent electrode/light-emitting layer/electron-transporting layer/back side electrode; transparent

electrode/hole-transporting layer/light-emitting layer/electron-transporting layer/back side electrode; transparent electrode/hole-transporting layer/light-emitting layer/back side electrode; transparent electrode/light-emitting layer/electron-transporting layer/electron-injecting layer/back side electrode;  
5 transparent electrode/hole-injecting layer/hole-transporting layer/light-emitting layer/electron-transporting layer/electron-injecting layer/back side electrode; etc., the reversed laminate thereof, etc. The light-emitting layer comprises the phosphorescent compound and the light-emitting device generally allows light emission from the transparent electrode side. Examples of materials for each  
10 layer are described in "Organic EL Display" (Technotimes Co., Separate Volume of "Monthly Display", the October issue of 1998), etc.

[0015]

Although the position of the organic layers in the light-emitting device is not particularly limited and may be appropriately selected in accordance with  
15 applications and purposes of the light-emitting device, the organic layers are preferably disposed on the transparent electrode or on the back side electrode. The organic layers may be disposed on the whole surface or a part of the transparent electrode or the back side electrode. Shape, size, thickness, etc. of the organic layers may be also appropriately selected in accordance with  
20 applications and purposes.

[0016]

The organic layers may be formed by a dry film-forming method or a wet film-forming method. To produce the light-emitting device excellent in the luminance and the light-emitting efficiency with reduced production costs  
25 and to increase an emitting area of the organic layers, at least one of the organic layers is preferably formed by the wet film-forming method. Vapor deposition methods, sputtering methods, etc. may be used as the dry film-forming method, and dipping methods, spin coating methods, dip coating methods, casting



methods, die coating methods, roll coating methods, bar coating methods, gravure coating methods, etc. may be used as the wet film-forming method. These methods may be properly selected depending on the materials used for the organic layers. In the case of using the wet film-forming method, the resulting layer may be dried after the film-forming. Conditions such as temperature, pressure, etc. for drying may be selected such that the formed layer is not destroyed.

[0017]

Application liquid used in the wet film-forming method is generally composed of a solvent and a material for the organic layer dissolved or dispersed in the solvent. The solvent is not particularly limited and may be appropriately selected depending on the material for the organic layer.

Examples of the solvent include: halogen-containing solvents such as chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, dichloromethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, chlorobenzene, etc.; ketone solvents such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, diethyl ketone, *n*-propyl methyl ketone, cyclohexanone, etc.; aromatic solvents such as benzene, toluene, xylene, etc.; ester solvents such as ethyl acetate, *n*-propyl acetate, *n*-butyl acetate, methyl propionate, ethyl propionate,  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone, diethyl carbonate, etc.; ether solvents such as tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, etc.; amide solvents such as dimethylformamide, dimethylacetamide; dimethylsulfoxide, etc.; water; etc. Solid content of the application liquid is not particularly limited and viscosity of the application liquid may be appropriately controlled in accordance with the film-forming method.

[0018]

The light-emitting device of the present invention may be produced by means of, for example, an equipment composed of an apparatus for forming the light-emitting layer and the back side electrode by spin-coating, vapor deposition, sputtering, etc. and a glove box connected to the apparatus. The

inner atmosphere of the glove box is generally replaced with an inert gas having the moisture concentration of 100 ppm or less and the oxygen concentration of 100 ppm or less while the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing parts are disposed. The inert gas may be a nitrogen gas, an argon gas,  
5 etc.

[0019]

In a case where the light-emitting layer is formed by the wet film-forming method, the light-emitting device may be produced as follows: the transparent electrode is disposed on the substrate; the resultant is put into the glove box filled with the inert gas and dried by heating, etc.; the application  
10 liquid is applied to the transparent electrode by a spin-coater, etc. in the glove box and dried to provide the light-emitting layer; this is then put into a vapor deposition apparatus connected to the glove box and the back side electrode is formed therein to prepare the light-emitting structure; and thus-obtained light-emitting structure is put into the glove box again and the light-emitting layer is  
15 sealed with the sealing parts.

[0020]

The light-emitting device of the present invention generally emits light when direct voltage of approximately 2 to 40 V or direct current is applied to the transparent electrode and the back side electrode. The direct voltage may  
20 contain alternating voltage. Further, the light-emitting device may be driven by a method described in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Nos. 2-148687, 6-301355, 5-29080, 7-134558, 8-234685 and 8-241047, United States Patent Nos. 5,828,429 and 6,023,308, Japanese Patent No. 2784615, etc. Each component  
25 of the light-emitting device according to the present invention will be described in detail below without intention of restricting the scope of the present invention.

[0021]

(A) Substrate

Examples of material used for the substrate include: inorganic materials such as yttrium-stabilized zirconia (YSZ) and glasses; polymer materials such as polyesters (polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyethylene naphthalate, etc.), polystyrene, polycarbonates, polyethersulfones, polyarylates, allyldiglycolcarbonate, polyimides, polycyclolefins, norbornene resins, poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), teflon and polytetrafluoroethylene-polyethylene copolymer; etc. The substrate may be made of one material or a plurality of materials. Among the materials, preferred are the polymer materials to produce a flexible light-emitting device and more preferred are such that is excellent in heat resistance, dimensional stability, solvent resistance, insulation property and workability and poor in gas permeability and hygroscopicity, for example, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyethersulfones, fluorine-containing polymer materials such as poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), teflon and polytetrafluoroethylene-polyethylene copolymer.

[0022]

Shape, structure and size of the substrate may be appropriately selected in accordance with purposes and applications of the light-emitting device. The substrate is generally in a plate-shape. The substrate may have a single-layer structure or a multi-layer structure. The substrate may be composed of one member or a plurality of members. The substrate may be colorless or colored, however, it is preferable that the substrate is colorless and transparent such that light emitted from the light-emitting layer is not scattered or damped.

[0023]

On one surface or the both surfaces of the substrate may be disposed a moisture permeation-inhibiting layer and/or a gas barrier layer. Such layers are preferably made of an inorganic compound such as silicon nitride, silicon oxide, etc. The moisture permeation-inhibiting layer and the gas barrier layer may be

provided by a radio frequency sputtering method, etc. Further, a hard coating layer and an undercoating layer may be disposed on the substrate, if necessary.

[0024]

#### (B) Transparent Electrode

5           The transparent electrode generally acts to supply positive holes to the organic layer as a positive electrode. The transparent electrode may act as a negative electrode, and in this case, the back side electrode acts as the positive electrode. The explanations will be made with respect to the case of using the transparent electrode as the positive electrode.

10           [0025]

Shape, structure and size of the transparent electrode are not particularly limited and may be appropriately selected in accordance with applications and purposes of the light-emitting device. The transparent electrode may be made of a metal, an alloy, a metal oxide, an electrically conductive compound, a mixture thereof, etc. The transparent electrode is preferably made of a material having a work function of 4 eV or more. Examples of the material for the transparent electrode include: antimony-doped tin oxide (ATO); fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO); semiconductive metal oxides such as tin oxide, zinc oxide, indium oxide, indium tin oxide (ITO), indium zinc oxide (IZO), etc.; metals such as gold, silver, chromium, nickel, etc.; mixtures and laminations of the metal and a conductive metal oxide; inorganic conductive compounds such as copper iodide, copper sulfide, etc.; organic conductive compounds such as polyaniline, polythiophene, polypyrrole, etc.; laminations of the organic conductive compound and ITO; etc.

25           [0026]

Method for forming the transparent electrode is not particularly limited and may be appropriately selected depending on the material used therefor from: wet methods such as printing methods and coating methods; physical methods

such as vacuum deposition methods, sputtering methods, ion-plating methods, etc.; chemical methods such as CVD methods, plasma CVD methods etc.; etc. For example, the transparent electrode of ITO is preferably disposed by a direct sputtering method, an RF sputtering method, a vapor deposition method, an ion-plating method, etc. The transparent electrode of the organic conductive compound is preferably disposed by the wet method.

[0027]

Patterning the transparent electrode may be achieved by a chemical etching method such as a photolithography, etc. or a physical etching method using laser, etc., etc. In addition, the transparent electrode may be patterned by vacuum vapor deposition or sputtering while masking, a lift-off method, a printing method, etc.

[0028]

Although the position of the transparent electrode in the light-emitting device is not particularly limited and may be appropriately selected in accordance with applications and purposes of the light-emitting device, the transparent electrode is preferably disposed on the substrate. The transparent electrode may be disposed on the whole surface or a part of the substrate.

[0029]

Thickness of the transparent electrode may be properly controlled depending on the material used therefor. The thickness is generally 10 nm to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably 50 nm to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . The resistance of the transparent electrode is preferably  $10^3 \Omega/\text{square}$  or less, more preferably  $10^2 \Omega/\text{square}$  or less. The transparent electrode may be colorless or colored. Light transmittance of the transparent electrode is preferably 60 % or more, more preferably 70 % or more to allow light emission from the transparent electrode side. The light transmittance can be measured by a known method using a spectrophotometer.

[0030]

Further, electrodes disclosed in "Tomei-Dodenmaku no Shintenkai (Development of the Transparent Electrically Conductive Film)" supervised by Yutaka Sawada, CMC, Inc., 1999, etc. may be used as the transparent electrode. Particularly in the case of using a plastic substrate poor in heat resistance, it is preferable that the transparent electrode is made of ITO or IZO and formed at a low temperature of 150 °C or less.

[0031]

#### (C) Back Side Electrode

The back side electrode generally acts to supply electrons to the organic layers as the negative electrode. The back side electrode may act as the positive electrode, and in this case, the above transparent electrode acts as the negative electrode. The explanations will be made with respect to the case of using the back side electrode as the negative electrode.

[0032]

Shape, structure and size of the back side electrode is not particularly limited and may be appropriately selected in accordance with applications and purposes of the light-emitting device. The back side electrode may be made of a metal, an alloy, a metal oxide, an electrically conductive compound, a mixture thereof, etc. The back side electrode is preferably made of a material having a work function of 4.5 eV or less. Examples of the material used for the back side electrode include: alkali metals such as Li, Na, K, Cs, etc.; alkaline earth metals such as Mg, Ca, etc.; gold; silver; lead; aluminum; a sodium-potassium alloy; a lithium-aluminum alloy; a magnesium-silver alloy; indium; rare earth metals such as ytterbium, etc.; etc. Although the materials may be used singly, it is preferable that the back side electrode is made of a plurality of materials to improve both of stability and electron injection property. Among the materials, alkali metals and alkaline earth metals are preferred from the viewpoint of the electron injection property and aluminum-based materials are preferred from the

viewpoint of the stability during storage. Used as the aluminum-based material are simple substance of aluminum, and alloys and mixtures comprising aluminum and 0.01 to 10 weight % of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal such as a lithium-aluminum alloy, a magnesium-aluminum alloy, etc. The back side electrode may be made of a material disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Nos. 2-15595 and 5-121172, etc.

[0033]

Method for forming the back side electrode is not particularly limited, and may be appropriately selected depending on the material used therefor from: wet methods such as printing methods, coating methods, etc.; physical methods such as vacuum deposition methods, sputtering methods, ion-plating methods, etc.; chemical methods such as a CVD method, a plasma CVD method, etc.; etc. In the case of using a plurality of materials for the back side electrode, the materials may be sputtered simultaneously or in order.

[0034]

Patterning the back side electrode may be achieved by a chemical etching method such as a photolithography, etc. or a physical etching method using laser, etc., etc. In addition, the back side electrode may be patterned by vacuum vapor deposition or sputtering while masking, a lift-off method, a printing method, etc.

[0035]

Although the position of the back side electrode in the light-emitting device is not limited and may be appropriately selected in accordance with applications and purposes of the light-emitting device, the back side electrode is preferably disposed on the organic layer. The back side electrode may be disposed on the whole surface or a part of the organic layer. Further, a dielectric layer may be disposed between the back side electrode and the organic layer. The dielectric layer may be made of a fluorinated alkali metal or an

alkaline earth metal and may have a thickness of 0.1 to 5 nm. The dielectric layer may be formed by a vacuum vapor deposition method, a sputtering method, an ion-plating method, etc.

[0036]

5 Thickness of the back side electrode may be properly controlled depending on the material used therefor. The thickness is generally 10 nm to 5  $\mu$ m, preferably 50 nm to 1  $\mu$ m. The back side electrode may be transparent or opaque. The transparent back side electrode may be a laminate composed of a thin layer of the above-mentioned material having a thickness of 1 to 10 nm and  
10 a transparent conductive layer of ITO, IZO, etc.

[0037]

#### (D) Light-Emitting Layer

The light-emitting layer comprises the phosphorescent compound. The phosphorescent compound used in this invention is not particularly limited only  
15 if it can utilize triplet excitons for light emission. The phosphorescent compound is preferably an *ortho*-metallation complex or a porphyrin complex, more preferably an *ortho*-metallation complex. The porphyrin complex is preferably a porphyrin-platinum complex. The phosphorescent compound may be used singly and a plurality of the phosphorescent compounds may be used in  
20 combination with each other.

[0038]

The *ortho*-metallation complex used in the present invention may be such a compound that is described in: Akio Yamamoto, "Yukikinzoku-Kagaku, Kiso to Oyo (Metalorganic Chemistry, Foundation and Application)", Page 150  
25 to 232, Shokabo Publishing Co., Ltd., (1982); H. Yersin, "Photochemistry and Photophysics of Coordination Compounds", Page 71 to 77 and 135 to 146, Springer-Verlag, Inc. (1987), etc. Although ligands of the *ortho*-metallation complex is not particularly limited, the *ortho*-metallation complex generally has



a particular ligand. Preferred examples of the particular ligand include 2-phenylpyridine derivatives, 7,8-benzoquinoline derivatives, 2-(2-thienyl)pyridine derivatives, 2-(1-naphthyl)pyridine derivatives and 2-phenylquinoline derivatives. The derivatives may have a substituent. The

5 *ortho*-metallation complex may have a ligand other than the particular ligand. A central metal atom of the *ortho*-metallation complex may be selected from transition metals. The central metal is preferably rhodium, platinum, gold, iridium, ruthenium, palladium, or the like, particularly preferably iridium. The organic layer comprising such an *ortho*-metallation complex is excellent in the  
10 luminance and the light-emitting efficiency. Complexes disclosed in Japanese Patent No. 2000-254171, Paragraph Nos. 0152 to 0180 may be used as the *ortho*-metallation complex in the present invention.

[0039]

The *ortho*-metallation complex used in the present invention may be  
15 synthesized by a known method disclosed in: Inorg. Chem., 30, 1685, 1991; Inorg. Chem., 27, 3464, 1988; Inorg. Chem., 33, 545, 1994; Inorg. Chim. Acta, 181, 245, 1991; J. Organomet. Chem., 335, 293, 1987; J. Am. Chem. Soc., 107, 1431, 1985; etc.

[0040]

20 A weight ratio of the phosphorescent compound in the light-emitting layer is not particularly limited. The weight ratio is preferably 0.1 to 70 weight %, more preferably 1 to 20 weight % based on the total weight of the light-emitting layer. If the weight ratio is less than 0.1 weight % or more than 70 weight %, there is a case where the phosphorescent compound cannot  
25 achieve sufficient effect.

[0041]

The light-emitting layer may comprise a host compound, a hole-transporting material, an electron-transporting material, an electrically inactive

polymer binder, etc. if necessary.

[0042]

The host compound acts to accelerate light emission of the phosphorescent compound such that the host compound is excited and energy is transferred from the excited host compound to the phosphorescent compound.

Examples of the host compound include: carbazole derivatives; triazole derivatives; oxazole derivatives; oxadiazole derivatives; imidazole derivatives; polyaryllalkane derivatives; pyrazoline derivatives; pyrazolone derivatives; phenylenediamine derivatives; arylamine derivatives; amino-substituted chalcone derivatives; styrylanthracene derivatives; fluorenone derivatives; hydrazone derivatives; stilbene derivatives; silazane derivatives; aromatic tertiary amine compounds; styrylamine compounds; aromatic dimethyldyne compounds; porphyrin compounds; anthraquinodimethane derivatives; anthrone derivatives; diphenylquinone derivatives; thiopyran dioxide derivatives; carbodimide derivatives; fluorenylidene methane derivatives; distyrylpyrazine derivatives; anhydrides derived from a heterocyclic tetracarboxylic acid having a structure such as naphthaleneperylene; phthalocyanine derivatives; 8-quinolinol metal complexes and derivatives thereof; metallophthalocyanines; metal complexes containing a benzoxazole ligand, a benzothiazole ligand, or the like; polysilane compounds; poly(*N*-vinylcarbazole) derivatives; aniline copolymers; electrically conductive polymers and oligomers such as oligothiophenes, polythiophenes, etc.; polythiophene derivatives; polyphenylene derivatives; polyphenylenevinylene derivatives; polyfluorene derivatives; etc.

The host compound may be used singly or in combination with other host compound.

[0043]

The hole-transporting material are not particularly limited and may be a low molecular weight material or a high molecular weight material if it has any

function of: injecting the holes provided from the positive electrode into the light-emitting layer; transporting the holes; and blocking the electrons provided from the negative electrode. Examples of the hole-transporting material include carbazole derivatives, triazole derivatives, oxazole derivatives, oxadiazole derivatives, imidazole derivatives, polyarylalkane derivatives, pyrazoline derivatives, pyrazolone derivatives, phenylenediamine derivatives, arylamine derivatives, amino-substituted chalcone derivatives, styrylanthracene derivatives, fluorenone derivatives, hydrazone derivatives, stilbene derivatives, silazane derivatives, aromatic tertiary amine compounds, styrylamine compounds, aromatic dimethyldiyne compounds, porphyrin compounds, polysilane compounds, poly(*N*-vinylcarbazole) derivatives, aniline copolymers, electrically conductive polymers and oligomers such as oligothiophenes, polythiophenes, etc., polythiophene derivatives; polyphenylene derivatives; polyphenylenevinylene derivatives; polyfluorene derivatives; etc. The hole-transporting material may be used singly or in combination with other hole-transporting material.

[0044]

The electron-transporting material is not particularly limited if only it has any function of: injecting the electrons provided from the negative electrode into the light-emitting layer; transporting the electrons; and blocking the holes provided from the positive electrode. Examples of the electron-transporting material include: triazole derivatives; oxazole derivatives; oxadiazole derivatives; fluorenone derivatives; anthraquinodimethane derivatives; anthrone derivatives; diphenylquinone derivatives; thiopyran dioxide derivatives; carbodimide derivatives; fluorenylidene methane derivatives; distyrylpyrazine derivatives; anhydrides derived from a heterocyclic tetracarboxylic acid having a structure such as naphthaleneperylene, etc.; phthalocyanine derivatives; 8-quinolinol metal complexes and derivatives thereof; metallophthalocyanines;

metal complexes containing a benzoxazole ligand, a benzothiazole ligand, or the like; aniline copolymers; electrically conductive polymers and oligomers such as oligothiophenes, polythiophenes, etc.; polythiophene derivatives; polyphenylene derivatives; polyphenylenevinylene derivatives; polyfluorene derivatives; etc.

5 [0045]

Examples of the polymer binder include: polyvinyl chloride; polycarbonates; polystyrene; poly(methyl methacrylate); poly(butyl methacrylate); polyesters; polysulfones; polyphenylene oxide; polybutadiene; hydrocarbon resins; ketone resins; phenoxy resins; polyamides; ethylcellulose; 10 poly(vinyl acetate); ABS resins; polyurethanes; melamine resins; unsaturated polyesters; alkyd resins; epoxy resins; silicone resins; polyvinylbutyral; polyvinylacetal; etc. The light-emitting layer containing the polymer binder can be easily formed by the wet film-forming method with a large area.

[0046]

15 Thickness of the light-emitting layer is preferably 10 to 200 nm, more preferably 20 to 80 nm. The light-emitting layer having the thickness of more than 200 nm often requires increased driving voltage. On the other hand, when the thickness is less than 10 nm, there is a case where the light-emitting device short-circuits.

20 [0047]

#### (E) Electron-Transporting Layer

The light-emitting device may comprise the electron-transporting layer, if necessary. The electron-transporting layer may be composed of the above-mentioned electron-transporting material. The electron-transporting layer may 25 further contain the polymer binder mentioned above. Thickness of the electron-transporting layer is preferably 10 to 200 nm, more preferably 20 to 80 nm. The thickness of more than 200 nm often increases the driving voltage for the light-emitting device, and the thickness of less than 10 nm often results in

short-circuit of the light-emitting device.

[0048]

(F) Hole-Transporting Layer

The light-emitting device may comprise the hole-transporting layer, if  
5 necessary. The hole-transporting layer may be composed of the above-  
mentioned hole-transporting material. The hole-transporting layer may further  
contain the polymer binder mentioned above. Thickness of the hole-  
transporting layer is preferably 10 to 200 nm, more preferably 20 to 80 nm.  
The thickness of more than 200 nm often increases the driving voltage for the  
10 light-emitting device, and the thickness of less than 10 nm often results in short-  
circuit of the light-emitting device.

[0049]

(G) Others

The light-emitting device of the present invention may comprise the  
15 protective layer disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Nos. 7-85974, 7-  
192866, 8-22891, 10-275682 and 10-106746, etc. The protective layer is  
generally disposed on the uppermost surface of the light-emitting device. In  
the light-emitting device where the substrate, the transparent electrode, the  
organic layers and the back side electrode are disposed in this order, the  
20 uppermost surface is the outer surface of the back side electrode. Further, in  
the light-emitting device where the substrate, the back side electrode, the  
organic layers and the transparent electrode are disposed in this order, the  
uppermost surface is the outer surface of the transparent electrode. Shape, size,  
thickness, etc. of the protective layer are not particularly limited. The  
25 protective layer may be made of any material that can prevent a substance such  
as water, oxygen, etc. which can degrade the function of the light-emitting  
device, from entering or penetrating into the device. Silicon oxide, silicon  
dioxide, germanium oxide, germanium dioxide, etc. may be used for the

protective layer.

[0050]

A method for forming the protective layer is not particularly limited and the protective layer may be formed by a vacuum deposition method, a sputtering  
5 method, an activated sputtering method, a molecular beam epitaxy method, a cluster ion beam method, an ion-plating method, a plasma polymerization method, a plasma CVD method, a laser CVD method, a thermal CVD method, a coating method, etc.

[0051]

10 It is preferred that a sealing layer is disposed in the light-emitting device to prevent invasion or permeation of water or oxygen into the device.

Examples of a material for the sealing layer include: copolymers of tetrafluoroethylene and at least one comonomer; fluorine-containing copolymers having a cyclic structure in the main chain; polyethylene; polypropylene;  
15 poly(methyl methacrylate); polyimides; polyureas; polytetrafluoroethylene; polychlorotrifluoroethylene; polydichlorodifluoroethylene; copolymers of chlorotrifluoroethylene or dichlorodifluoroethylene and another copolymer; a moisture-absorbing substance having a water absorption of 1 % or more; a moisture-resistant substance having a water absorption of 0.1 % or less; metals  
20 such as In, Sn, Pb, Au, Cu, Ag, Al, Ti, Ni, etc.; metal oxides such as MgO, SiO, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, GeO, NiO, CaO, BaO, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Y<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>, etc.; metal fluorides such as MgF<sub>2</sub>, LiF, AlF<sub>3</sub>, CaF<sub>2</sub>, etc.; liquid fluorinated carbons such as perfluoroalkanes, perfluoroamines, perfluoroethers, etc.; dispersions prepared by  
25 adding an adsorbent for adsorbing moisture or oxygen to the liquid fluorinated carbon; etc.

[0052]

In the light-emitting device of the present invention, the one or more organic layers is sealed by sealing parts such as a sealing plate and a sealing

vessel to shield the device from invasion or penetration of moisture, oxygen, etc. The sealing parts may be disposed only on the back side electrode side.

Alternatively, the entire light-emitting structure may be covered with the sealing parts. Shape, size, thickness, etc. of the sealing parts are not particularly

5 limited if only the sealing parts can seal and shield the organic layers from the external air. The sealing parts may be made of: a glass; a stainless steel; a metal such as aluminum, etc.; a plastic such as poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), polyester, polycarbonate, etc.; a ceramic; etc.

[0053]

10 A sealing agent or an adhesive may be used when the sealing parts are disposed on the light-emitting structure. In the case of covering the entire light-emitting structure with the sealing parts, portions of the sealing parts may be heat-welded with each other without using the sealing agent. Used as the sealing agent may be an ultraviolet-hardening resin, a thermosetting resin, a  
15 two-part type hardening resin, etc.

[0054]

Further, a water-absorbing agent or an inert liquid may be interposed between the light-emitting structure and the sealing parts. The water-absorbing agent is not particularly limited and may be barium oxide, sodium  
20 oxide, potassium oxide, calcium oxide, sodium sulfate, calcium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, phosphorus pentoxide, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, copper chloride, cesium fluoride, niobium fluoride, calcium bromide, vanadium bromide, a molecular sieve, a zeolite, magnesium oxide, etc. The inert liquid is also not particularly limited and may be: paraffin; liquid paraffin;  
25 a fluorine-containing solvent such as perfluoroalkane, perfluoroamine, perfluorether, etc.; a chlorine-containing solvent; silicone oil; etc.

[0055]

## EXAMPLES

The present invention will be explained in further detail by the following examples without intention of restricting the scope of the present invention.

[0056]

Example 1

5           A glass plate having a thickness of 0.2 mm was cut into 2.5 cm × 2.5 cm in size to prepare a substrate. The substrate was put into a vacuum chamber and thereon was formed an ITO transparent electrode by DC magnetron sputtering using an ITO target having SnO<sub>2</sub>-content of 10 weight % under a condition of substrate temperature of 100 °C and oxygen pressure of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  Pa.  
10   The ITO transparent electrode had a thickness of 0.2 μm and a surface resistance of 10 Ω/square.

[0057]

          The substrate with the ITO transparent electrode was put into a washing vessel and washed with IPA, and then subjected to UV-ozone treatment for 30  
15   minutes. The ITO transparent electrode was spin-coated with poly(ethylenedioxythiophene)-polystyrene sulfonic acid aqueous dispersion ("Baytron P" manufactured by BAYER AG., solid contents: 1.3 %) and vacuum-dried at 150 °C for 2 hours to form a hole-injecting layer having a thickness of 100 nm.

20           [0058]

          A hole-transporting host material of polyvinylcarbazole with Mw of 63,000 manufactured by Aldrich Chemical Co., a phosphorescent material of tris(2-phenyl pyridine) iridium complex and an electron-transporting material of 2-(4-biphenyl)-5-(4-*t*-butylphenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazole (PBD) were dissolved in  
25   dichloroethane to prepare an application liquid. Weight ratio of polyvinylcarbazole, tris(2-phenyl pyridine) iridium complex and PBD was 40:1:12 in the application liquid.

[0059]



Inner atmosphere of a glove box connected to a vapor deposition apparatus was replaced with a nitrogen gas having a moisture concentration of 30 ppm and an oxygen concentration of 30 ppm, and the above substrate having the hole-injecting layer and the application liquid were put into the glove box.

- 5 The substrate was placed on a heater and dried at 150 °C for 2 hours in the glove box. Then, the substrate was unloaded from the heater and cooled down to the room temperature, and the application liquid was applied onto the hole-injecting layer by means of a spin-coater and dried at 100 °C for 2 hours in the glove box to form a light-emitting layer having a thickness of 100 nm. Next, the resultant  
10 substrate having the light-emitting layer was put into the vapor deposition apparatus connected to the glove box, on the light-emitting layer was placed a mask patterned such that a light-emitting device has a light-emitting area of 5 mm × 5 mm, and a back side electrode was formed thereon by vapor depositing a magnesium-silver alloy with a molar ratio of magnesium/silver=10/1 into a  
15 thickness of 0.25 μm and by vapor depositing silver into a thickness of 0.3 μm, to provide a light-emitting structure.

[0060]

- The resulting light-emitting structure was put into the glove box and each of the ITO transparent electrode and the back side electrode was connected  
20 to an aluminum lead wire. The resultant was sealed with a sealing vessel of glass by an ultraviolet-hardening adhesive "XNR5493" manufactured by Nagase-Chiba Co. to produce a light-emitting device of Example 1.

[0061]

#### Example 2

- 25 A light-emitting device of Example 2 was produced in the same manner as Example 1 except for using an argon gas having a moisture concentration of 70 ppm and an oxygen concentration of 80 ppm instead of the nitrogen gas having the moisture concentration of 30 ppm and the oxygen concentration of 30

ppm for replacing the inner atmosphere of the glove box.

[0062]

Example 3

A light-emitting device of Example 3 was produced in the same manner  
5 as Example 1 except for using an argon gas having a moisture concentration of  
100 ppm and an oxygen concentration of 100 ppm instead of the nitrogen gas  
having the moisture concentration of 30 ppm and the oxygen concentration of 30  
ppm for replacing the inner atmosphere of the glove box.

[0063]

10 Comparative Example 1

A light-emitting device of Comparative Example 1 was produced in the  
same manner as Example 1 except for using an argon gas having a moisture  
concentration of 200 ppm and an oxygen concentration of 30 ppm instead of the  
nitrogen gas having the moisture concentration of 30 ppm and the oxygen  
15 concentration of 30 ppm for replacing the inner atmosphere of the glove box.

[0064]

Comparative Example 2

A light-emitting device of Comparative Example 2 was produced in the  
same manner as Example 1 except for using an argon gas having a moisture  
20 concentration of 30 ppm and an oxygen concentration of 200 ppm instead of the  
nitrogen gas having the moisture concentration of 30 ppm and the oxygen  
concentration of 30 ppm for replacing the inner atmosphere of the glove box.

[0065]

Comparative Example 3

25 A light-emitting device of Comparative Example 3 was produced in the  
same manner as Example 1 except that the application liquid was applied onto  
the hole-injecting layer and dried not in the glove box but in the air.

[0066]

Comparative Example 4

A light-emitting device of Comparative Example 4 was produced in the same manner as Example 1 except that the light-emitting structure was sealed with the sealing vessel not in the glove box but in the air.

[0067]

Example 4

A light-emitting device of Example 4 was produced in the same manner as Example 1 except that 2,2',2''-(1,3,5-benzenetriyl) tris[3-(2-methylphenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine] is vapor deposited on the light-emitting layer at a rate of 1 nm/second to form an electron-transporting layer having a thickness of 0.024  $\mu\text{m}$  in the vapor deposition apparatus connected to the glove box and thereon was disposed the back side electrode.

[0068]

Evaluation of Luminance, Light-Emitting Efficiency and Durability

Each of thus-obtained light-emitting devices was allowed to emit light while applying direct voltage thereto using "Source-Measure Unit 2400" manufactured by TOYO CORPORATION and the luminance thereof was measured, whereby a maximum luminance  $L_{max}$ ; an applied voltage  $V_{max}$  at which the light-emitting device emits light having  $L_{max}$ ; a light-emitting efficiency (external quantum efficiency)  $\eta_{200}$  with which the light-emitting device emits light having a luminance of 200  $\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$ ; and a light-emitting efficiency (external quantum efficiency)  $\eta_{2000}$  with which the light-emitting device emits light having a luminance of 2000  $\text{cd}/\text{m}^2$  of each device were found. Further,  $L_{max}$ ,  $V_{max}$ ,  $\eta_{200}$  and  $\eta_{2000}$  were measured again after leaving the light-emitting devices at 85 °C under a condition of 95 %RH for 30 days to evaluate durability of each light-emitting device. Results were shown in Table 1.

[0069]

Table 1.

		$L_{\max}$ (cd/m <sup>2</sup> )	$V_{\max}$ (V)	$\eta_{200}$ (%)	$\eta_{2000}$ (%)
Ex. 1	Initial	79000	11	12.4	10.2
	After 30 days	75000	11	12.1	9.9
Ex. 2	Initial	66000	11	11.2	10.0
	After 30 days	63000	11	10.7	9.6
Ex. 3	Initial	62000	11	10.5	9.1
	After 30 days	63000	11	10.0	8.8
Comp. Ex. 1	Initial	55000	13	9.2	8.1
	After 30 days	44000	14	8.1	5.3
Comp. Ex. 2	Initial	48000	15	8.1	6.9
	After 30 days	28000	17	6.2	4.5
Comp. Ex. 3	Initial	35000	18	7.7	4.8
	After 30 days	12000	22	5.7	2.4
Comp. Ex. 4	Initial	42000	18	8.0	4.8
	After 30 days	8600	25	4.5	1.4
Ex. 4	Initial	96000	11	17.4	14.9
	After 30 days	92000	11	16.8	14.1

[0070]

5 As shown in Table 1, each of the light-emitting devices of Examples 1 to 4 was produced by the method according to the present invention where the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing parts were disposed in an atmosphere with a low moisture concentration and a low oxygen concentration to be excellent in the luminance, the light-emitting efficiency and the durability. In contrast to this, reductions of the luminance, the light-emitting efficiency and the durability were observed in the light-emitting devices of Comparative Examples 1 and 2 produced by disposing the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing parts in an atmosphere with a high moisture concentration or a high oxygen concentration, respectively.

15 Thus, it is important to lower both of the moisture concentration and the oxygen

concentration in the present invention. Further, with respect to the light-emitting devices of Comparative Examples 3 and 4 produced by disposing the light-emitting layer or the sealing parts in the air respectively, the light-emitting properties and the durability were remarkably worsened. Thus, it was

5 extremely desirable that the light-emitting layer and the sealing parts were both disposed in an atmosphere with low moisture and oxygen concentration in the present invention.

[0071]

**Effects of the invention**

10 As described in detail above, the light-emitting device of the present invention efficiently utilizes the triplet excitons to be excellent in the luminance, the light-emitting efficiency and the durability. Further, the light-emitting device can be produced with reduced production costs and can be easily increased in emitting area to be useful for a full color display, a back light, a  
15 surface light source such as an illuminated light source, a light source array of a printer, etc.

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Problems to be solved:**

To provide a light-emitting device excellent in luminance, light-emitting efficiency and durability, which can be produced with low production costs and can be easily increased in emitting area to be useful for a full color display, a back light, a surface light source such as an illuminated light source, a light source array of a printer, etc. as well as to provide a method for producing the same.

### **Solution:**

A light-emitting device obtained by a method comprising the steps of disposing a transparent electrode, one or more organic layers and a back side electrode on a substrate to provide a light-emitting structure, and disposing sealing parts on the light-emitting structure to isolate the one or more organic layers from external air, wherein the one or more organic layers comprises a light-emitting layer containing a phosphorescent compound, and the light-emitting layer, the back side electrode and the sealing parts are disposed in an atmosphere where both of a moisture concentration and an oxygen concentration are 100 ppm or less.

### **Selected Drawings:**

None